



## Community Celebrates Unveiling of Martin Luther King Jr. Outpatient Center

By Michael Wilson

Hundreds turned out for the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Outpatient Center last month, a major milestone in the

of the civil rights leader at the entrance. Inside, natural light complements a tranquil palette of colors with light terrazzo floors, sleek new furniture, LCD comput-

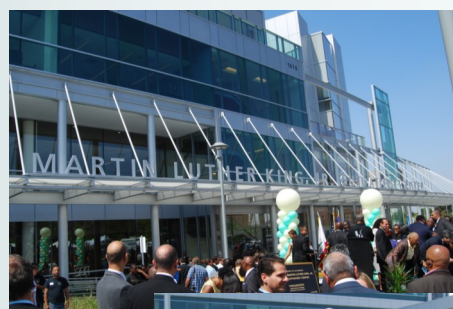
er monitors, and contemporary art. Every detail, from design of patient rooms to conference rooms, supports delivery of efficient operations. The health center houses over 70 primary and specialty care clinics in

136,000-square-feet of space. There are over 100 exam rooms, a full array of diagnostic and ancillary services, and an onsite Urgent Care Center open 16 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Ultimately, the facility will serve as an essential link to the hospital and emergency ser-

vices. For some community residents, joy mixed with memories of a time when there weren't adequate health care services in the area. Community activist

"Sweet" Alice Harris, who has lived in the area for over 60 years, voiced fulfillment that morning as she gazed up at the shimmering face of the health center. "We've needed this, we want it, and our children need it," she said.



revitalization of the medical campus serving the communities of South Los Angeles. Under sunny skies and the rhythms of salsa and gospel music, L.A. County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas thanked his colleagues on the Board of Supervisors for their support and joined speakers including DHS director Dr. Mitchell Katz, health center administrator Cynthia Oliver, and Public Works assistant director Jacob Williams to herald a new era of high quality healthcare with a focus on community health and primary care.

"Today we are at the center of a circle of care," said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, alluding to the 131-bed community hospital and psychiatric urgent care center that will open later. Together, the inpatient and outpatient facilities will support his vision for an integrated campus where patients can access comprehensive medical services in one place. A Center for Public Health was opened two years ago. The building's striking steel design features a glass curtain façade, bold lettering, and an iconic image

## A Message From the Director



What a great week it was for our Department! We opened two beautiful outpatient centers!

First we opened the Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center to serve communities of South L.A. Then two days later we opened the High Desert Regional Health Center to serve the Antelope Valley community.

What is so monumental about these new centers is that they replaced facilities that were inadequate for providing high quality outpatient care because the prior buildings were designed to function as inpatient hospitals. In contrast, these new buildings were built expressly for outpatient care. Now our patients can be served in facilities that are as great as the staff that works in them.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center is part of the rebirth of an entire campus of health services. Previously the County celebrated the opening of the MLK Public Health Center, run by our sister department. We look forward to the opening of the MLK Community Hospital and the MLK Psychiatric Urgent Care Center.

The large distances that our patients must travel to receive services in the Antelope Valley make the new health center in Lancaster a major step forward for access. It is closer to where our patients live and much more accessible via public transport. The architecture of the building with its highly textured sand colored walls and its wood beams perfectly captures of the beauty of the High Desert area.

We are so grateful to Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Michael Antonovich, and the entire Board of Supervisors, the CEO's office, and the Department of Public Works for these beautiful buildings. I know they will provide improved morale for our patients and our staff (who wouldn't be proud to receive care or work in buildings so elegantly constructed?!). They stand as "concrete" evidence that we are a transformed DHS, focused on high quality care and a wonderful patient experience by caring staff in modern facilities.

High Quality  
Patient Centered  
Cost-Effective Health Care

From Dr. Katz

FACTS





# Modern Health Center Blooms in High Desert

By Michael Wilson

Residents of the Antelope Valley got a first glimpse inside the new High Desert Regional Health Center when it was dedicated last month. The modern facility that towers over residential East Avenue I in Lancaster replaces the aging High Desert Health System campus built in 1962. Flanked by civic and community leaders, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich presided over the ribbon-cutting program, which included remarks from L.A. County chief executive officer William T. Fujioka, State Senator Steve Knight and Public Works director Gail Farber. Council Members from Palmdale and Lancaster also attended. Supervisor Antonovich emphasized the importance of high quality, comprehensive health services for the Antelope Valley. “To provide greater access to quality medical care for our residents, this state-of-the-art Regional Health Center offers primary care clinics, a broad range of specialty clinics and urgent care services, and cutting edge diagnostic equipment,” he said. When it opens this month, the health center will showcase the department’s patient centered medical home (PCMH) model that places emphasis on coordinated care driven by a provider-led team of caregivers. The PCMH model is based in responsive, individualized care that places the patient’s needs and wishes at the center of treatment. “Today we celebrate healthier babies, healthier kids, and healthier families who

will all benefit from the high quality care provided at this facility,” said Ambulatory Care Network chief executive Alexander Li, MD. “Through focus on wellness and prevention, we hold the key to improving population health.” The 142,000 square foot facility is spread across a complex of buildings on 15 acres.

Services include adult and pediatric primary care, specialty care, and outpatient surgical services. An urgent care clinic will run seven days a

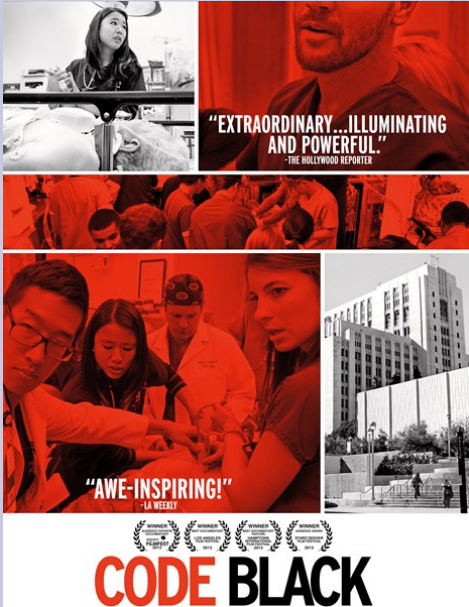
week. Clinical operations will be supported by diagnostic and support services, including radiology, laboratory testing, respiratory, physical therapy and oncology services.

A large central atrium that floods the main building in natural light

provides the perfect space for a distinctive hanging art mobile made from paper cut-outs that adds visual interest. New furniture with bright colors and flat screens throughout add high-end touches. In addition to solar power, the building features wireless connectivity of medical equipment and devices and digital imaging. Original artwork featuring local artists was commissioned through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission to enhance the healing environment.



## SAVE THE DATE



In his vivid and thought-provoking filmmaking debut, physician Ryan McGarry gives us unprecedented access to America's busiest Emergency Department. Amidst real life-and-death situations, McGarry follows a dedicated team of charismatic, young doctors-in-training as they wrestle openly with both their ideals and with the realities of saving lives in a complex and overburdened system. Their training ground and source of inspiration is "C-Booth," Los Angeles County Hospital's legendary trauma bay, the birthplace of Emergency Medicine, where “more people have died and more people have been saved than in any other square footage in the United States.” CODE BLACK offers a tense, doctor's-eye view, right into the heart of the healthcare debate – bringing us face to face with America's only 24/7 safety net.

CODE BLACK opens June 27<sup>th</sup>  
at The Landmark Theatre at  
10850 W Pico Blvd in Los Angeles.  
Visit [www.CodeBlackMovie.com](http://www.CodeBlackMovie.com)  
for more details.

## And One More Thing...

Congratulations to Sherwin Pacampara, RN, of Olive View-UCLA Medical Center, who was honored last month as the 2014 DHS Outstanding Nurse of the Year. Sherwin earned his nursing degree in the Philippines



and has practiced nursing across the globe. Since 2010, he has received over 14 “on the spot”

recognitions for providing exceptional patient care and been applauded for his teaching ability. The annual County-wide nurse recognition event celebrates outstanding nurses in the departments of Health Services, Public Health, Sheriff, Children and Family Services, Mental Health, and Fire. All honored nurses were presented with scrolls from the Board of Supervisors on May 13. The DHS executive leadership team joins the Office of Nursing Affairs in thanking all DHS nurses for making caring a calling.

## FAST FACTS From Dr. Katz

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